



From the Office of Secretary of State

John A. Gale

www.sos.ne.gov

For Release

April 6, 2015

Contact: Laura Strimple
402-471-8408
laura.strimple@nebraska.gov

Counties receive grants for disability election equipment costs

LINCOLN – Forty-eight county election offices will receive reimbursements totaling over \$48,000 from Secretary of State John Gale to help cover the costs associated with the use of voter disability equipment during the 2014 general election. Those funds are provided to the Secretary of State’s office through a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002.

“We asked the counties provide us with data to devise a fair formula for allocating the reimbursements funds,” explained Gale. “Based on the information submitted, we were able to rank each of the counties based on financial impact from the use of the AutoMARK machines.”

AutoMARK machines allow voters with visual impairments and other disabilities to cast their ballots privately and without assistance as early voters or at the precinct on Election Day. The equipment is available to other voters who wish to use it as well.

“When HAVA was passed, my office made a commitment to purchase the new statewide disability election equipment to meet the federal mandates and to cover the ongoing costs of maintenance with federal or state funds. Since their purchase, we’ve paid the annual maintenance fees. However, we also recognize that using that equipment costs county funds at each

election. The monies distributed through this grant will offset or at least partially cover those additional expenses," said Gale.

In 2012, counties were awarded \$36,677 dollars and in 2013, they received nearly \$41,000. This year the total distribution was \$48,203.99. Checks will be received by the counties this month.

Gale said going forward, budgeting for this type of expense will be a challenge for the counties, as the federal government has not allocated additional HAVA dollars or additional HHS grant funds for the states. However, he assured counties that his office will continue to cover those expenses as much as possible to ensure the accuracy, reliability, accessibility and quality of all state elections.

###

List of Counties Receiving Grants & Amounts

Burt	\$750.00	Clay	\$750.00
Kearney	\$750.00	Hitchcock	\$750.00
Sheridan	\$750.00	Logan	\$906.44
Howard	\$750.00	Nance	\$1,000.00
Cuming	\$750.00	Deuel	\$1,000.00
Cherry	\$750.00	Pawnee	\$1,000.00
Boone	\$750.00	Garfield	\$1,000.00
Polk	\$750.00	Franklin	\$1,000.00
Furnas	\$750.00	Dundy	\$1,000.00
Johnson	\$750.00	Garden	\$1,000.00
Stanton	\$750.00	Boyd	\$1,000.00
Merrick	\$750.00	Frontier	\$1,000.00
Holt	\$750.00	Arthur	\$1,245.86
Morrill	\$750.00	Hooker	\$1,317.26
Knox	\$750.00	Loup	\$1,333.45
Nuckolls	\$750.00	Grant	\$1,400.20
Brown	\$750.00	McPherson	\$1,517.93
Blaine	\$750.00	Banner	\$1,590.45
Butler	\$750.00	Thomas	\$1,642.40
Antelope	\$750.00	Gosper	\$1,750.00
Perkins	\$750.00	Rock	\$1,750.00
Dixon	\$750.00	Sioux	\$1,750.00
Fillmore	\$750.00	Hayes	\$1,750.00
Sherman	\$750.00	Wheeler	\$1,750.00